GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3082
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
AMOUNT DUE FROM IMPORTERS
RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amounts are due from the importers although the Government has already made payment for the imports as has been pointed out by the CAG in their Report No.1 of 1998 for the year ended March, 1997 on page 73 thereof;

(b) if so, the total amount due from the importers giving details thereof and how much of that money has since been recovered from the importers;

(c) the reasons for not recovering full money so far;

(d) whether further money has also become due from them;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the present system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(a)&(b): In the case of externally aided projects where the donors pay directly to the foreign suppliers by debiting the loan account, Indian importers are required to deposit the rupee funds to the credit of Government of India. The dues from different importers under this head was Rs.2151.68 crores at the end of March 1997. The position at the end of 1997-98,1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 1336.52 crores, Rs. 1850.71 crores and Rs. 1895.20 crores, respectively.

(c)&(d): Rupee deposits by Indian importers on account of direct payment to foreign suppliers against external assistance is a continuous process. Indian importers other than Government Departments/State Governments are presently required to pay interest at the rate of 12% on the amount due for the first 90 days from the date of payment to the foreign supplier, and 15% thereafter. In respect of dues from importers for the past periods, the matter is being pursued with the concerned Administrative ministries for expeditious settlement.

(e)&(f): The system of recovery of the amounts due from importers on account of direct payment by donors to foreign suppliers is being closely monitored.